

proud to call them fellow Oklahomans in the trailblazing that they have done.

Thanks for your leadership.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, we are all representative of heroes and idols and, clearly, my colleague from Oklahoma appoints several out from his home State.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I complete my remarks before we go to the vote this afternoon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NOMINATION OF MIGUEL A. CARDONA

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise today to support the nomination of Miguel Cardona to be the next Secretary of Education. He has the background, qualifications, and the temperament to serve in this position. Dr. Cardona has a meteoric rise from a classroom teacher to a school principal, to a commissioner of education for the State of Connecticut.

I am glad the President has nominated him to lead the Education Department in such a challenging time for our Nation's schools.

COVID-19 related school closures have led to significant learning losses, with millions of children stuck at home, trying to learn. Parents are at their wits' end because many of the adults running public schools across our country are failing to actually follow the science. We should be seriously talking about reopening schools as quickly as possible. That is what the science tells us, and that is what students need.

Dr. Cardona testified before the Senate HELP Committee. He stressed the need for students to get back to school, and I am glad that is now, finally, a bipartisan mission.

At the same time, each school district, college, university, State and local community faces different circumstances in dealing with this pandemic. Trying to treat them as a monolith instead of providing flexible advice for States and localities to use if applicable and useful would be a mistake.

Dr. Cardona said he understands that one-size-fits-all mandates from Washington won't work. Dr. Cardona also agreed to be responsive to our oversight requests and to keep us updated on his plans and Department action. We won't agree on everything, but we should be able to find places where we can agree and we can move forward.

I support the nomination of Dr. Cardona and look forward to working with him, and I encourage my colleagues to support his nomination as well.

#### SECURITY

Mr. President, on a personal note, it is time to take the fences down around this Capitol. To leave them up—it is not about security. It is about an attempt to say: We are really, really important. We work here.

Let me say what I think most of my colleagues believe. We aren't. We are

like everyone whom we represent and whom Lincoln referred to as common folks.

At one time, this was a shining city on a hill, and today we have made it into a bunker on the Hill. The message that sends globally, the message that it sends domestically, is wrong. It is time for us to take these 4,000 national guardsmen and let them go see their families versus for 24 hours a day to patrol when we don't even provide them a cafeteria that is open at night. They eat out of vending machines or they bring what they eat.

We thank all of these individuals for the safety they have provided us after a horrendous January 6 event. Now it is past time for us to open up this campus and to allow DC, the District of Columbia, to fully open up to the tourism that they thrive off of.

I thank the President for his indulgence.

I yield the floor.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 16, Miguel A. Cardona, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education.

Charles E. Schumer, Cory A. Booker, Jon Ossoff, Richard Blumenthal, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse, Robert Menendez, Benjamin L. Cardin, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Ron Wyden, Mazie Hirono, Tammy Duckworth, Sherrod Brown.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Miguel A. Cardona, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VAN HOLLEN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 66, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 67 Ex.]

#### YEAS—66

Baldwin	Capito	Cornyn
Bennet	Cardin	Cortez Masto
Blumenthal	Carper	Duckworth
Booker	Casey	Durbin
Brown	Cassidy	Feinstein
Burr	Collins	Fischer
Cantwell	Coons	Gillibrand

Grassley	McConnell	Sanders
Hassan	Menendez	Schatz
Heinrich	Merkley	Schumer
Hickenlooper	Moran	Shaheen
Hirono	Murkowski	Sinema
Hyde-Smith	Murphy	Smith
Johnson	Murray	Stabenow
Kaine	Ossoff	Tester
Kelly	Padilla	Tillis
King	Peters	Van Hollen
Klobuchar	Portman	Warner
Leahy	Reed	Warnock
Lujan	Romney	Warren
Manchin	Rosen	Whitehouse
Markey	Rubio	Wyden

#### NAYS—32

Barrasso	Graham	Rounds
Blackburn	Hagerty	Sasse
Blunt	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Boozman	Hoeben	Scott (SC)
Braun	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Toomey
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Wicker
Daines	Paul	Young
Ernst	Risch	

#### NOT VOTING—2

Inhofe	Sullivan
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 66, the nays are 32.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 18 through 25 and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force Service; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

#### IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

#### To be brigadier general

Col. Anthony P. Angello  
Col. Frank L. Bradfield, III  
Col. Howard Travis Clark, III  
Col. Robert W. Claude  
Col. Lisa M. Craig  
Col. Mitchell A. Hanson  
Col. Jennie R. Johnson  
Col. Andrew J. Leone  
Col. John D. McKaye  
Col. Craig McPike  
Col. Kevin J. Roethe  
Col. Regina A. Sabric  
Col. Michael T. Schultz

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

#### To be brigadier general

Col. John M. Painter

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Bonnie Joy Bosler

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Michael A. Battle

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Mitchel Neurock

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Lt. Gen. James E. Rainey

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Maria R. Gervais

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Richard E. Angle  
Brig. Gen. James E. Bonner  
Brig. Gen. Michele H. Bredenkamp  
Brig. Gen. Richard R. Coffman  
Brig. Gen. Charles D. Costanza  
Brig. Gen. Robert L. Edmonson, II  
Brig. Gen. Brian S. Eifler  
Brig. Gen. James J. Gallivan  
Brig. Gen. Anthony R. Hale  
Brig. Gen. William J. Hartman  
Brig. Gen. Donn H. Hill  
Brig. Gen. David M. Hodne  
Brig. Gen. Heidi J. Hoyle  
Brig. Gen. Scott A. Jackson  
Brig. Gen. Mark H. Landes  
Brig. Gen. Christopher C. LaNeve  
Brig. Gen. David A. Lesperance  
Brig. Gen. Charles R. Miller  
Brig. Gen. Michael T. Morrissey  
Brig. Gen. Allan M. Pepin  
Brig. Gen. Anthony W. Potts  
Brig. Gen. Walter T. Rugen  
Brig. Gen. Douglas F. Stitt  
Brig. Gen. Darren L. Werner

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN45 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning TRAVIS D. BELLICCHI, and ending PAUL S. SMITH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN46 AIR FORCE nominations (5) beginning JOEL R. BISCHOFF, and ending WAYNE T. SLETTEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN47 AIR FORCE nominations (5) beginning JOHN D. CALDWELL, and ending MARION R. WENDALL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN48 AIR FORCE nominations (15) beginning ANDREW C. GORDON, and ending RICHARD G. WITTMAYER, III, which nomi-

nations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN49 AIR FORCE nomination of Alexander O. Kirkpatrick, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN50 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning JAMILA G. EVANS, and ending DEVAN M. THOMPSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

IN THE ARMY

PN51 ARMY nomination of Terra L. Dawes, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN52 ARMY nominations (89) beginning RACHELE A. ADKINS, and ending AARON G. YEE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN53 ARMY nomination of Clifton C. Kyle, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN54 ARMY nomination of Dewayne L. Deener, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN58 MARINE CORPS nomination of Christopher L. Hardin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN60 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning MICHAEL S. DEWEY, and ending PAUL M. HERRLE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN64 MARINE CORPS nomination of Jameel A. Ali, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN65 MARINE CORPS nominations (4) beginning TIMOTHY M. LANDWERLEN, and ending LONG N. VO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN67 MARINE CORPS nomination of Jason M. Davis, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN68 MARINE CORPS nominations (6) beginning STEVEN L. FERWERDA, and ending WEIGUO R. XU, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN69 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning BENJAMIN D. KASTNING, and ending PAUL F. THOMAS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN70 MARINE CORPS nominations (5) beginning DAVID W. DIXON, JR., and ending THOMAS R. RICE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN71 MARINE CORPS nomination of Aaron Mora, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN72 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning MARIO J. ARELLANO, and ending THOMAS B. WHITE, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN73 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning KELLY E. DAYTON, and ending RICHARD L. RAINES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN74 MARINE CORPS nominations (5) beginning ISMAEL ALICEA, and ending ALFREDO TOPETE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN75 MARINE CORPS nominations (34) beginning JAMES L. BIGGERS, JR., and ending CARL M. ZIEGLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

IN THE NAVY

PN55 NAVY nomination of Mondre X. Barnes, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

PN77 SPACE FORCE nomination of Joshua D. King, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MOMMA ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this week America reached a heartbreaking milestone, one that would have seemed unthinkable a year ago. We have now lost more than 500,000 Americans to the COVID-19 pandemic. That is one in every five COVID-19 deaths in the world. We have lost mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. On Monday evening, President Biden, Vice President Harris, and their spouses remembered all of these lost souls in a moving ceremony at the White House. Behind them, 500 flickering candles lined the White House stairs, each candle representing a thousand lives cut short by the virus, a thousand grieving families. In addition, more than 28 million Americans have been infected by the coronavirus in this pandemic.

No State, no community in America, has been spared in this sadness. In my State of Illinois, COVID-19 has claimed more than 20,000 lives. My heart goes out to and every American trying to survive in this terribly difficult year. I have heard others say, and I agree: This pandemic will not break us, but it is showing us where we are broken. Like so many other diseases and health conditions, the pandemic has inflicted disproportionate harm on people and communities of color—Black Americans, Native Americans, and members of the Latinx community.

Black Americans get sick and die of COVID at 1.5 times the rate of White Americans. Despite their greater risks of infection and death, people of color are receiving COVID vaccinations at less than half the rate as White Americans. In Illinois, Black residents make up 15 percent and Latinx residents make up 18 percent of our State's population, yet each group accounts for